

## Action by Missouri Clean Water Commission

Date of Action: September 7, 2005

Water Body:

Name: Mississippi River  
Classification: P  
Identification #: 1707  
Length of Segment: 200.5 miles  
County (ies): St. Louis to Mississippi

Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) Finding(s):

A whole body contact (WBC) recreational UAA was submitted to the department from MEC Water Resources, Inc. on behalf of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District on July 14, 2005. The UAA evaluated the Mississippi River from the confluence with the Missouri River to the confluence with the Meramec River under Criterion #1: Natural Pollutant Sources, Criterion #4: Hydrologic Modifications, and Criterion #6: Substantial, Widespread Social and Economic Impact.

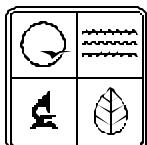
Review Committee Recommendation (RCR):

**Committee Recommendation:** ☐ Retain Use ☐ Modify Use ☐ Remove Use ☒ Inconclusive

The UAA Review Committee determined the UAA to be inconclusive, because insufficient information does not exist regarding bacteria speciation between anthropogenic and natural sources (Criterion #1), more information is needed on the effect of the river's hydrologic modifications on recreational uses (Criterion #4), and further review is needed on the scope of substantial, widespread social and economic impacts if full treatment was required (Criterion #6). The committee recommended that further study be conducted to support these findings.

Summary of Comment(s):

- (1) Sauget, IL has a year-round waiver to disinfect from Illinois EPA and they are directly across from St. Louis. This is based on no recreational use and unsafe conditions. <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/wqstandards/uaa/msd-mississippi-river-200508.pdf>
- (2) Supplemental information for UAA indicates no WBC due to hydrologic modification and unsafe conditions. <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/wqstandards/uaa/msd-letter-mississippi-r-082305.pdf>
- (3) The Confluence Greenway project is working to create a 200 sq. mi. conservation, heritage and recreation area centered on the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Please give the rivers all the protection you can. <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/wqstandards/uaa/cohen-letter-mississippi-r-081705.pdf>
- (4) One individual reports that he kayaks and wades in the river and would swim if the water quality was better.



Missouri  
Department of  
Natural Resources

Division of Environmental Quality  
Water Protection Program  
Use Attainability Analysis  
Toll Free (800) 361-4827

Last Revised: October 12, 2005

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<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/wqstandards/uaa/heisel-email-mississippi-r-080105.pdf>

- (5) One individual reports that he has water skied on the river and wants the sewage disinfected even if it makes sewage cost rise.  
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/wqstandards/uaa/suits-letter-mississippi-river-061405.pdf>
- (6) A letter was submitted having general comments on the UAAs for several waterbodies in St. Charles County. This river and other creeks in St. Charles County are accessed by the public and used in "water features" in public parks. Children use park access to these creeks to fish and play. Letter states support for the WBC designation for this creek.  
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/wqstandards/uaa/stcharles-county-letter-mississippi-r-082305.pdf>
- (7) A citizen would like to see any water body safe to swim in. When given a chance, he will swim in the Mississippi River.  
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/wqstandards/uaa/hartnell-mississippi-r-082905.pdf>

### Commission Action on Comment(s):

#### **Commission Action:**

☐ Retain Use ☒ Modify Use ☐ Remove Use ☐ Inconclusive

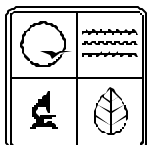
The commission voted to retain WBC recreation use designation on the Mississippi River from Dam #27 upstream to the mouth of the Missouri River due to kayaking activities around the Chain of Rocks. The commission further voted to remove the WBC recreation use designation from the mouth of the Ohio River upstream to Dam #27 due to the overall absence of conditions suitable or safe for swimming resulting from water control structures and barge traffic.

### Final Order of Rulemaking:

The Mississippi River from the mouth of the Missouri River to the mouth of the Ohio River (200.5 miles) will be divided into two segments. The whole body contact recreational use designation will be retained from Dam #27 upstream to the Missouri River (5.0 miles). The WBC recreation use designation will be removed from the Ohio River upstream to Dam #27 (195.5 miles).

### Opportunity for Further Public Comment:

Mississippi River will be placed on public notice until November 15, 2005, to solicit comments on recreational uses within the river. Comments should specify the type of recreational activity, where that activity takes place on the creek, and the specific dates or times of year, if known.



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